

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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July 31, 1995

Barry Reiswig, USFWS
S.E. Idaho Refuge Complex
73 N. 740 W
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Dear Mr. Reiswig,

On behalf of the Delta Protection Commission, I am writing to support the proposal of M&T Staten Ranch to translocate Trumpeter Swans to historic wintering areas in California. M&T Staten Ranch has acquired a national reputation for its pioneering work in providing seasonal habitat on commercial agricultural lands.

The current proposal includes trapping, banding, and inoculating approximately 50 to 75 cygnets and yearlings; transporting the young Trumpeter Swans to M&T Staten Ranch in San Joaquin County; seasonal flooding of harvested agricultural fields to provide habitat; and monitoring of the Swan population. M&T Staten Ranch is located in the Primary Zone of the Delta.

The Delta Protection Commission (Commission) is a State agency charged with developing a regional land use for the 500,000 acre Primary Zone of the Delta which includes portions of five counties.

The proposed project to provide seasonal habitat on agricultural lands is consistent with several policies and recommendations adopted as part of the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (adopted February 23, 1995) including:

Environment Recommendation 6: Management of suitable agricultural lands to maximize habitat values for migratory birds and other wildlife should be encouraged...

Land Use Recommendation 3: Multiple use of agricultural lands for commercial agriculture, wildlife habitat, and if appropriate, recreational use, should be supported, and funding to offset management costs pursued from all possible sources...

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Agriculture Policy 8: Encourage management of agricultural lands which maximize wildlife habitat seasonally and year-round, through techniques such as sequential flooding in fall and winter, leaving crop residue, creation of mosaic of small grains and flooded areas, controlling predators, controlling poaching, controlling public access, and others.

With enthusiasm and respect for past achievements in this field by the managers of M&T Staten Ranch, and on behalf of the Delta Protection Commission, I wholeheartedly support the current proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Margit Aramburu", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margit Aramburu
Executive Director

cc: Delta Protection Commission